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April — May 1973

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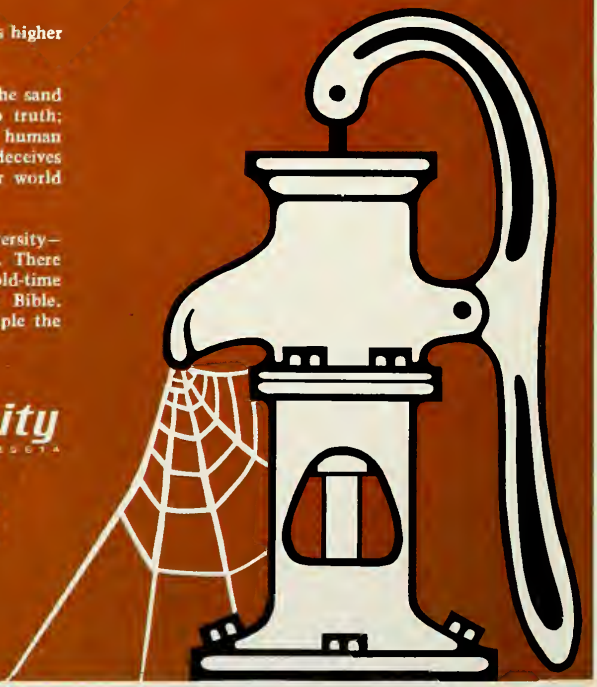

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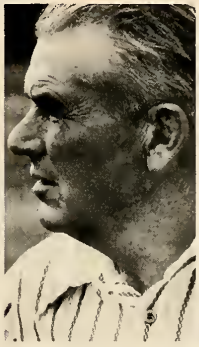

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The National
Future Farmer

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4 APRIL-MAY, 1973

Departments

Looking Ahead	6	FFA In Action	37
Chapter Scoop	36	Joke Page	42

Agri-Emphasis: Livestock

Turkeys With Class	10	Leaders In Sheep	14
Three-Sows To Full-Scale	12	Driving Forty Down Town	18
Pen Of Five	19		

Other Features

Taking The Lead	8	A Lasting Tribute	30
FFA Explorers	20	A Tour Of Rural Life	33
What Will '73 Bring	22	They Can Split A Second	34
Experience In Production	28	A Garb Shop	41

Our Cover

Steve Norman, a district Star Farmer from Montevideo, Minnesota, studies the fertilizer setting on a bulk spreader truck with Mr. Mike Jorgenson, manager of the local Farmers Union Soil Service Center. Steve, currently chapter president, feeds around 75 steers annually in a 50-50 partnership and manages a 300-hog operation on a one-third to two-thirds basis with his father. He rents 80 acres of cropland on his own. Two Montevideo members have worked at the fertilizer plant under the agribusiness occupational experience training program. One is still employed with the co-op, but at the agriculture petroleum division.

Photo by Ron Miller

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Is Vo-Ag the Answer?

HIGH food prices are getting a lot of attention. Isn't this the best reason yet for continuing a strong national program of vocational education in agriculture?

Since 1917, this country has had a federally initiated program of vocational education in agriculture, and the FFA was founded in 1928 as an outgrowth of it. Both have contributed significantly over the years to the food producing capacity of this country. How high would food prices be if we had not had them?

In recent years, vocational agriculture in many schools has included processing and marketing as well as other areas of agribusiness—along with farming and ranching.

To help keep food prices as low as possible for the American consumer we need people trained to produce and market food efficiently. The high schools of this country must continue to offer vocational agriculture and FFA with strong federal and state support. Many of you are 18—and voters—so you can help do this.

National Officers in Congress

Two former national FFA officers are serving their first term in Congress. They are Congressman William D. Gunter, Jr., (D-Fla.), national FFA president 1954-55; and Congressman Jerry Litton, (D-Mo.), national secretary 1956-57. Both are on the House Agricultural Committee.

Spanton Receives VIP Citation

Dr. W. T. Spanton served as national FFA advisor from 1941 to 1961. Last year, the FFA awarded him their VIP Citation which was presented by Tim Daugherty while on the National Officer Tour. Dr. Spanton was present when the FFA was organized in 1928 and made many significant contributions to its development. He is now retired and lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Wilson Carnes, **Editor**

Bert Prisk. The man who invented a heart.

At the General Motors Research Laboratories near Detroit, a number of projects extend beyond the automobile. Many of the people who work there are pursuing research in areas they hadn't dreamed of when they joined GM.

Bert Prisk is one of these people. His background is Electrical Engineering, and maybe you'd expect him to be designing new ignition systems. But Bert's project is entirely different. For several years now, Bert has been developing an inexpensive disposable heart pump.

Using fairly common materials and an uncommon imagination, Bert has devised a simple and ingenious solution to a serious medical problem. Bert's heart pump had been tested at veterinary hospitals and may soon be working to help save human lives in hospitals around the country.

Whether he's furthering medical technology at work, or relaxing with a good opera at home, Bert Prisk is a good example of the kind of people who work for GM.

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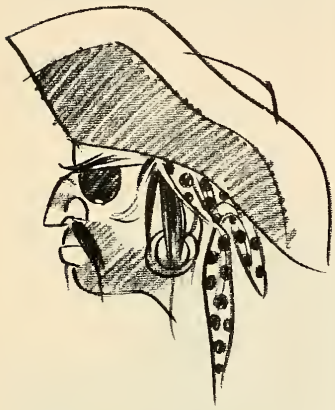

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Looking Ahead

Livestock

YOUTH PURCHASE PROGRAM—Loans of up to $300 for purchasing a registered Polled Hereford female are now available to any boy or girl under 21 years of age. The animal must be purchased from a breeder cooperating in the Youth Purchase Program which entails a discount of 10 to 30 percent to young buyers. The note with an interest rate of 5 percent payable annually comes due in three years or prior to the date if the animal is sold. Interested youth are directed to write the Youth Director, American Polled Hereford Association, 4700 East 63rd Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64130 for information, rules, and application forms.

NATIONAL DAIRY PROMOTIONS—The promotion efforts of the nation's dairy farmers were put together recently at the annual meeting of the United Dairy Industry Association. The action will consolidate the advertising program of the American Dairy Association, the nutrition research and education programs of the National Dairy Council, and the product research programs of Dairy Research, Inc. under single management. The parent organization is the United Dairy Industry Association, but each dairy organization will retain their corporate entities.

PROJECTED BEEF PRODUCTION—The nation's beef supply is projected at 29 billion pounds in 1980. The key to the increase in beef supply will be the enlargement of the beef cow herd from 37 million to 46 million over the next seven years. This expansion will match the consumer needs for beef and raise per capita consumption from 114 pounds to 126 pounds.

COMMODITY MARGINS CHANGE—Minimum margin requirements for live cattle, live hogs, shell egg, and lumber futures contracts were raised recently by governors of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The decision was made because of expanded price ranges and increased price volatility. Chairman Barry J. Lind of the exchange clearing house committee says, "This step informs the public that the market is more speculative."

Crops

FARMER CROP PROBLEMS—Due to the general poor harvesting conditions of last year worries about 1972 crops still are not over. (Problem 1) As warm weather approaches corn in storage is now beginning to spoil, reports Mr. Larry Van Fossen, an Iowa State agricultural engineer. This leaves the farmer with the following options: market the corn; dry the grain; re-store ground ear or shelled corn in a silo; treat grain with a preservative; or gamble the corn will keep. (Problem 2) Soybean seed supply will be lower in the coming year, says Mr. William Murphy, agronomy specialist at the University of Missouri. Later harvested beans have undergone changes in the field resulting in poor germination. Farmers are, therefore, urged to test earlier harvested beans which usually germinate well.

WHEAT KERNEL FRACTIONATED—The whole wheat kernel has been successfully fractionated without changing its natural state by Far-Mar-Co of Hutchinson, Kansas, supported by the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and the Kansas Wheat Commission. The process is both technically and economically feasible in the recovery of wheat gluten. During the research the company also discovered methods for fortifying wheat protein with amino acids, isolating pentosans from bran, and changing gluten to meat flavor enhancers. According to Dr. Wayne Henry, research director, wheat utilization will provide wheat farmers with increased profitability.

Management

FARM DEBT DOUBLING—Farmers are expected to drive up outstanding farm debt to $107 billion by 1980—double the 1970 mark, as projected by the Federal Reserve Board in the *Agricultural Finance Review*. Summing up the increases in farmland prices, machinery costs, and building expenses, the farmers total annual capital flow is expected to reach $16.7 billion by 1980—up more than 50 percent from 1970. Farmers generally meet 60 percent of these capital needs with out-of-pocket spending, but borrowing for the rest will up farm credit by 7 percent a year.

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Pennsylvania President Nelson Martin, left, accompanied Bruce to Robert Campbell's farm, regional dairy winner.

Mr. Wayne Galyean, the high school principal, was one of the Sulphur Springs residents interviewed by Jerry.

Taking the Lead

Your national officers began their term with this practical experience program.

By Ron Miller

NATIONAL FFA Officers traveled to a total of 325 chapters in 20 states during a six-week practical experience program. The training program was designed to better prepare them for their year in office. The activities broaden their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the FFA and vocational agriculture education.

Most of the visits were one-day stops. However, each officer spent one week with the members and advisors of an outstanding chapter in various parts of the country.

Each officer led vocational agriculture classes in discussions about the FFA, made home visits, and attended chapter meetings. They further appeared before student body assemblies, adult organization meetings, and on local broadcasting networks.

But the national officers turned the tables to interview school teachers, administrators, and other town leaders. Yet another aspect of their experience was participating in the planning of four-year occupational programs for students.

The feelings of the national officers plus those of chapter members and advisors illustrate the value of this training.

Relating to Members

FFA President Dwight Seegmiller spent a week with the New Ulm FFA, the largest chapter in Minnesota. After participating in the planning of farm programs with students and their advisors he says, "I feel now I can relate more efficiently to high school members."

While spending a week at the Prairie Heights FFA in LaGrange, Indiana, Central Regional Vice President Tim Daugherty toured chapter livestock research projects and environmental nature trails. Like the other officers he visited the homes of farm and non-farm FFA members. "The advisor purposely left the orientation of the chapter up to the members," reports Tim, "and they let me know what they felt was important to them as a chapter."

"The school assembly and student council meeting were very useful in informing students of the FFA and learning what they think about it," says Southern Regional Vice President Robert Hinton, who stayed for a week at the Saline, Louisiana, Chapter. Bob further talked about FFA and vocational agriculture with youth at chapter meetings, in church activities, on radio and TV, and at their homes.

Learning from Adults

Each officer conducted interviews with several adults during their stay. "My interviews helped me find out how much people know about vocational agriculture and FFA," reports Zane Hansen, vice president of the Pacific Region. "They also permitted me to clarify any questions they had concerning FFA." All totaled Zane interviewed seven people at Cody, Wyoming—including the school administrator, student counsellor, school teachers, and community leaders.

While staying with the Sulphur Springs, Texas, Chapter, National FFA Secretary Jerry Goolsby had the opportunity to talk with Dr. N. K. Quarles, head of the Agricultural Education Department at East Texas State University. "In talking with Dr. Quarles I learned a lot about the relationship of agricultural education to vocational agriculture and the FFA," says Jerry. He also conversed with members of the collegiate FFA chapter and spoke at business organizational meetings in Sulphur Springs.

Bruce Erath, vice president of the North Atlantic Region, talked with elementary and junior high students as well as senior high groups in New Holland, Pennsylvania, home of the Grassland FFA. His stay was planned by Dr. Robert Herr, chairman of the agriculture department. "Learning how agriculture education is being extended from kindergarten through adults was a great learning process," says Bruce. "My week, likewise, helped me understand the vocational agriculture teachers role as well as the students."

Thoughts to Remember

Advisor Ned Stump of the Prairie Heights FFA says, "Tim's visit was a shot in the arm to our chapter. We really appreciated it. The impact he made with his address to the student body on closed circuit television was tremendous."

"I learned a lot from Dwight," says Advisor Frank Stucky of New Ulm. "It was the greatest experience of my career."

Finally, as one of the national officers expresses it, "The home visits, the school discussions, and company tours gave me a preview of what to expect during my year in office."

Greenhand Kevin Finstad and Dwight design a four-year plan of Kevin's agricultural work experience program.

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Eddie gets chores done at the range house much faster on this mini-bike.

Mechanized feeding and automatic watering keep Eddie's turkeys gaining. *Staff Photos*

WHY is Eddie Bowman of the Turner Ashby FFA at Dayton, Virginia, a two-time state winner of the National Turkey Federation award? Why was he presented a 1971 Grower of the Month award by Marval Poultry, Inc., a nationally known processor located in Dayton? Why did Eddie receive the Leadership and Agricultural Achievement honor from the Rockingham County Pro-Cal Division of Farm Bureau?

The main reasons: His efficient turkey production and leadership in FFA.

Last year Eddie marketed one flock of 4,000 birds in which only 1.08 percent were condemned while 96 percent were of Grade A quality. Their feed efficiency factor was 3.01 pounds of feed per pound of gain. Just the year before Eddie obtained his best feed conversion ratio on 4,600 birds—a 2.66 efficiency factor. He has always maintained a livability rate of 90-92 percent.

Eddie has been producing turkeys for four years now, and the young poultryman annually raise 10,000 birds in two flocks. He starts one batch in March and another in mid-October.

"Upon receiving day-old chicks from as far away as Toronto, Canada, it is essential to get feed and water to the poults immediately," says Eddie. He uses a crushed pellet starter feed of 30 percent protein and hand feeds the supplement for two weeks. Medicated water is supplied from a tank with an electric motor and pressure gauge installed by Eddie.

Thereafter until Eddie's turkeys are eight-weeks old they are fed via a power take-off operated grain trailer which augers feed into the feeders. The purchased feed ration—based on protein requirements and price—is mixed according to a computer.

During the summer the turkeys are moved outside until they are sold at 18 weeks of age. Turkeys on feed in the winter are moved into range houses. The range houses feature the relatively new practice of cross ventilation by natural means through curtains.

The entire Bowman operation encompasses housing facilities for 50,000 turkeys. Eddie and his father produce almost 140,000 turkeys a year. Their facilities include one automatically fed range house, five 48- x 200-foot semi-automatically fed range houses, and one 48- x 300-foot brooder house. The brooder house is separated into three sections to handle a total of 18,000 birds, and each range house holds 6,000 turkeys.

The Bowmans can transfer 6,000 turkeys from the brooder house to a range house in less than two hours. Using doors especially designed for stock trucks, they herd the turkeys directly into a truck and haul them to a range house. All of the houses are easily cleaned with a mini-loader.

Eddie and his father operate an adjoining 180 acres to the 130-acre Bowman home farm. They raise 50 acres of corn, 20 acres of hay, and pasture 175 acres.

In addition to their turkey operation, Eddie and his father began purchasing 1½ year-old Angus heifers a few years ago. Of the current 80-head herd, Eddie owns 16 registered heifers. They anticipate reaching 150 cows and selling 100 feeder calves annually.

The beef herd is fed corn silage from four silos with electrically operated feeders. The cattle are housed in open sheds, fed hay in the winter, and pastured during the summer.

In FFA, Eddie participated on the farm mechanics team and in poultry judging—placing second in the Rockingham Federation contest and fourth in the state. He also exhibited many first place turkeys at the county fair and won a trip to the American Institute of Cooperatives by placing third in the FFA public speaking contest. Eddie played shortstop on the Turner Ashby AA State Champion baseball team.

But these activities are but a few for this FFA member as he served as assistant vice president and assistant president for his chapter. Under the guidance of Advisors R. Z. Arey and Charlie Shiflet, Jr., Eddie went on to excel in the offices of vice president and president in the Turner Ashby Chapter and secretary in the Rockingham County FFA Federation.

"The FFA is an organization where you have to push yourself," remarks Eddie. "Your advisors help you along, but you need to do the work."

Last fall the young livestock producer began classes at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Eddie, already a member of both the National and Virginia Turkey Federations, is majoring in poultry and animal science with the idea of farming full-time after graduation.

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MORE FOR GROWTH AND HEALTH

Taking a Three-Sow Program to Full-Scale

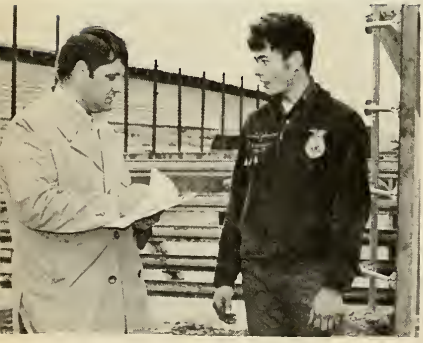
Dennis' animal health practices are crucial in his efforts to maintain a high weaning average.

The very day this young farmer came to vocational agriculture class he set out to be a top-notch hogman. ***By Ron Miller***

IN hopes of a career in farming after high school, Dennis Johnson of Litchfield, Minnesota, began FFA with three sows less than five years ago. This past year Dennis finished out 445 hogs, and this year he intends to market 800 hogs. He was able to jump his production only because he was ready for full-scale production the day he graduated from vocational agriculture.

Dennis began his three-sow program in partnership with his father. The young FFA member kept his share of the gilts from the first farrowing and sold the barrows to pay for his half of the production costs plus the forthcoming expenses on the gilts. Dennis' dad sold his half of the second farrowing to the young producer, and Dennis continued marketing barrows and keeping all the gilts he could afford.

Dennis discusses his hog program with the FFA magazine's associate editor.



Meanwhile, Dennis borrowed money from the bank to build two farrowing units during his freshman year and two more as a sophomore. He added another house later, finally enabling him to handle his present capacity of 30 sows and 30 gilts. All of the units include six pens with guard rails and heat lamps. A cement weaning and breeding lot lies adjacent to the farrowing houses.

Dennis, already a chapter Star Farmer, took his biggest step in the spring of his junior year by going into debt to build a fully-cemented finishing unit. "Though not operating at capacity during my senior year because of school, I put the facility into full production last summer when I graduated," says the enterprising hogman.

The new finishing setup includes a hutch capable of holding 270 market hogs on feed at one time. A cement, 66- x 72-foot sloping platform is located in front of the 16- x 72-foot, steel covered hutch.

Dennis' hog operation is situated on a 1½-acre plot of ground on his father's farm. Upon building the finishing setup, the young pork producer bought the land outright from his father and manages it himself.

To feed his growing hog numbers Dennis worked cash rented land. He used his dad's machinery and in return helped on the family farm. About 3½ years ago Dennis purchased a large tractor which his father, too, used for planting crops. Dennis presently owns a two-ton grinder-mixer mill (40 percent) and a welder (50 percent) in partnership with his dad. Recently he traded for a new tractor and a 1973 pickup truck, plus purchasing a skid loader to clean and scrape the feedlots.

Dennis uses two dryers, each with a 3,500-bushel capacity, and an 8,500-bushel bin to store his grain. After grinding feed he unloads it directly from the grinder-mixer into two 90-bushel feeders located at the low end of the new finishing platform.

The hog producer's practices include many acquired while studying vocational agriculture taught by Instructors Ken Stark and Winton Nelson. Some key practices are clipping teeth, giving iron, leptospirosis, and erysipelas shots, and worming. Dennis, a Minnesota

Livestock Proficiency award winner, pays particular attention to the selection of the three boars used in his breeding program.

According to FFA Advisor Stark four things have made Dennis' program go. "First, Dennis has realistic plans for the future. Secondly, he carefully reinvests profits into the business. Third, the encouragement of his parents and teachers helped. But most important the operation and responsibility are entirely Dennis'."

After high school graduation Dennis enrolled in the Minnesota Adult Farm Management program. He received his first analysis in 1971, and the print out showed his labor earnings were $6.42 per hour, based on his total number of work units and net profit. It also revealed he produced a pound of pork for 12 cents and received a net return of 9 cents per pound of pork produced. His sows farrowed an average of 9.2 pigs and weaned 8.6 pigs per litter.

"Last year I was able to rent a 200-acre farm. The farm has 160 tillable acres on which I plan to grow 130 acres of corn and 30 acres of oats," says Dennis. "I also started a purebred breeding program with 15 Yorkshire gilts and three Hampshire gilts."

With results and records like those mentioned here, Dennis proves a systematic farming program can work. His next expansion goals: Ship 1,000 market hogs yearly, build a 60-sow farrowing unit, and sell feeder cattle.

The hogman augers feed directly from the grinder-mixer into self-feeders.

Advisor Ken Stark, left, high school agriculture teacher, Winton Nelson, adult farmer program instructor, and Dennis study hogs in new finishing pens.

Color Photos by Author

Leaders In Sheep

Members of this chapter are using a sheep ring to upgrade their stock.

Dave repairs the lambing pens before hanging heat lamps in them.

IN the eastern mountains of West Virginia lies Pendleton County, the leading sheep producing area in the state. Here the Circleville FFA Chapter has set up a program to improve the quality of sheep produced.

The local bank in Petersburg provides $160 for financing a sheep ring—as many sheep as money will afford—in cooperation with the chapter. Last year two members of the chapter each received four ewes. A committee of FFA members suggests which members should receive the sheep, and an adult committee makes the final selection.

According to the agreement the sheep become the property of the member upon returning an equal number or dollar value to the chapter sheep ring. In case of unforeseen loss to the member the bank covers the deficit next year.

One of the members to receive these sheep was Dave Bennett of Onego. Starting in vo-ag with six head, Dave now owns 17 registered Suffolks which he purchased from his father, plus the four from the sheep ring.

Dave winters his ewes on alfalfa hay but begins feeding grain about one month before lambing. His ewes are bred to lamb in early April.

This registered sheep breeder feeds his lambs 50-50 corn to oats ration with molasses mixed in. He uses a masculator on the young rams and raises the market lambs to 110 pounds.

The health of his flock is Dave's prime concern. He purchases many of his veterinary supplies from the chapter, who buys veterinary medicine from a wholesale distributor. This encourages proper disease control and enables Dave and other FFA members to save money. "Stock supplies are limited to wormers, vaccine, antibiotics, and instruments like masculators and syringes," reports Advisor Michael Yokum. "We can, however, purchase other needed supplies by special order."

While he feeds Dave checks bred ewes closely as lambing season approaches.

Another indication of the Circleville Chapter's stress on sheep production is evident in the Pendleton County Fair held behind the high school. Members set up pens, stalls, and exhibit areas for crops and vegetables. Only a few cattle and hogs are exhibited but over 70 head of sheep are shown at the fair each year. The fair also includes carnival stands operated by community and high school clubs.

Dave, whose father teaches reading to fifth through eighth graders, keeps his sheep on his grandfather's 600-acre farm. Because the farm is in the mountains the land consists of 250 acres of pasture, 75 acres of crops—mostly hay and some corn—and woodland.

In exchange for use of the land, Dave helps his grandfather manage a herd of 35 Hereford stock cows. His grandfather sells approximately thirty 500-pound feeders annually, and he runs about 250 head of sheep on the farm.

Dave furnishes 50 percent of the supplies and feed for his sheep. His grandfather does the same, plus supplying 100 percent of the housing and farm equipment. The only equipment needed on the farm are two tractors, two wagons, and a hay baler.

Dave's labor, which more than offsets the difference, permits him to purchase additional ewes from his grandfather each year.

Diligently involved in Circleville FFA activities, Dave handled the finances of the chapter as treasurer and was a member of the parliamentary procedure team. Moreover, he received both the chapter Star Greenhand and Star Farmer awards.

Another of his contributions came in the contest area. Dave participated in land and poultry judging—helping his chapter earn the sweepstakes honor in the state contest for the second year in a row. Upon winning the West Virginia FFA Poultry Judging contest, Dave and his teammates went on to place second in poultry and egg judging at the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council Organization meeting. Dave won a bronze medal in poultry judging at the National FFA Convention.

The sheep breeder is an avid sportsman as well as a motorcyclist. Being a deer hunter and owner of three rifles, Dave served as chairman of the chapter's annual shooting match.

Last fall Dave, a recipient of the State Farmer degree, began attending Potomac State College at Keyser. He will be studying agriculture there for two years with current plans of returning to the farm and raising sheep.

Advisor Yokum helps Dave to trim the hooves of his registered Suffolk ram.

Staff Photos

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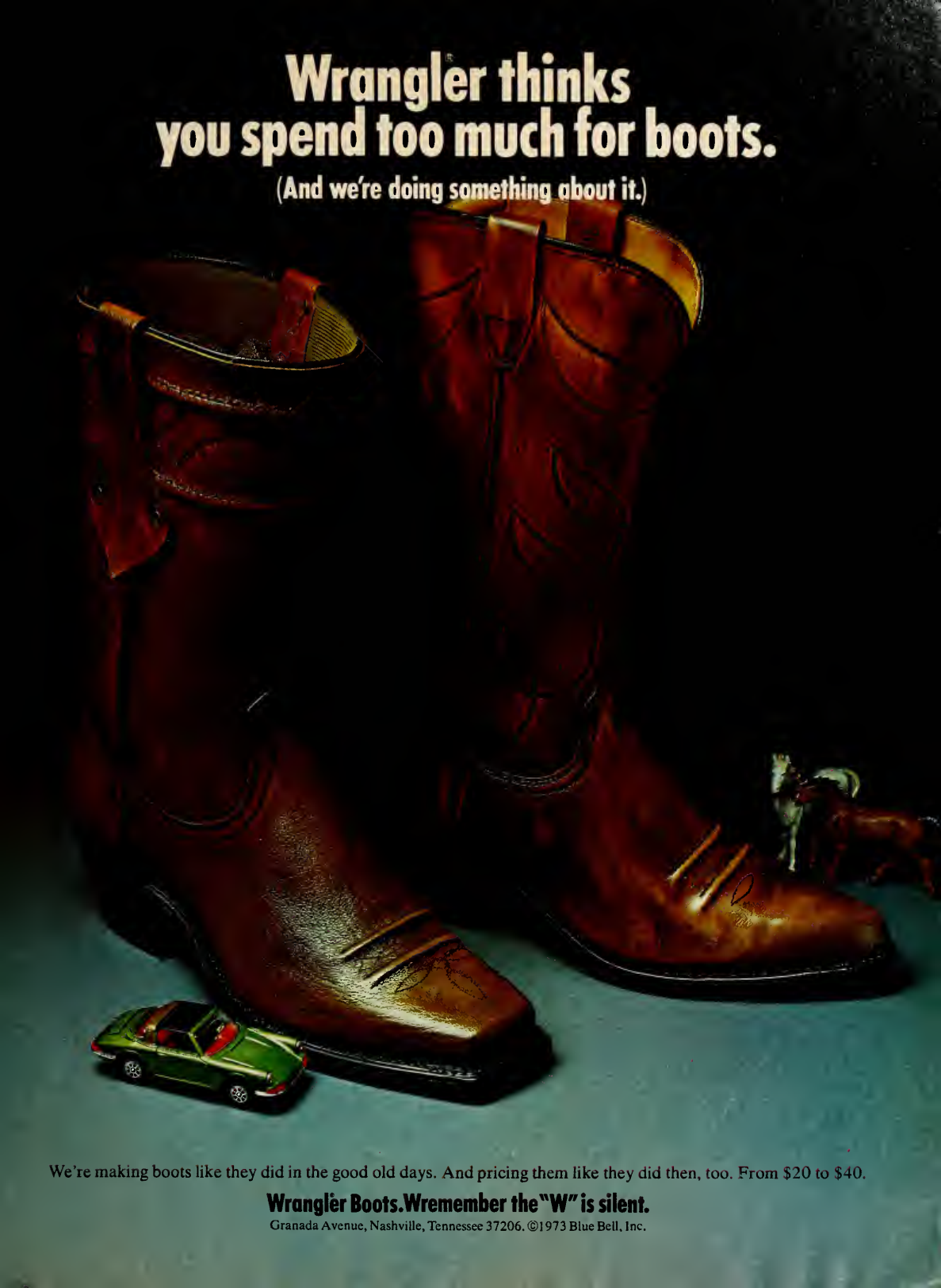

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A highlight for Paul was driving the 40 horses in the July 4 Circus Parade.

Driving Forty Down Town

This member did it! Not with a car mind you, but with a 40-horse hitch. ***By Rod Vahl***

A SIX-FOOT, curly-haired, FFA member from Zearing, Iowa, sat atop a white and gold Barnum and Bailey Circus wagon, holding five sets of reins in his sturdy hands as he drove 40 Belgian draft horses down the streets of Milwaukee, Wisconsin!

The handsome, costumed circus bandwagon driver is Paul Sparrow, the 17-year-old son of Dick Sparrow, an Iowa Belgian horse breeder. Paul's father revived the historic 40-horse hitch this past summer for the 10th anniversary of the annual Fourth of July Circus Parade in Milwaukee.

"That was one of the most exciting moments of my life!" exclaims the ambitious farm youth as he reminisces about his summer experiences. Altogether, he served as back-up driver to his father during the four Midwest public appearances of the 40-horse hitch.

Though he is ordinarily a quiet and modest youth, Paul displays great pride in his father's skill in handling a 40-horse hitch, a feat not accomplished since the 1904 Barnum and Bailey circus parades.

"My job is simply to relieve Dad when he gets tired," explains Paul. And that couldn't be too often for the FFA youth who finds an excitement in every job demanded of him in preparing and driving the hitch.

Paul states the 40-horse hitch idea originated with Robert A. Uihlein, Jr., president of the Schlitz Brewing Company of Milwaukee, the firm which sponsors the annual circus parade event. The executive, who has an intense interest in animals and especially horses, contacted Paul's father about organizing a 40-horse hitch to pull a circus bandwagon in the parade.

Without a moment's hesitation, Paul's father accepted the challenge and agreed to the company's sponsorship of the project. Immediately, the Sparrow family began to select and train 40 Belgian horses from their herd of over 60 Belgians.

"It's exciting and a lot of hard work," smiles Paul who competently displays his ability to help supervise the chores of hitching up 40 Belgians which average 2,000 pounds each. "We had to have everything made for the hitch—the harnesses, decorative gear, and even the circus costumes we wear during the parades," Paul adds.

Before a parade Paul is busy helping hitch up the 40 Belgian draft horses.

The hitch is organized with ten teams of four horses controlled by five lines in each hand of the driver. Paul explains, "We have two lines that go to five teams—the first, second, fifth, eighth, and tenth teams."

Paul points out that the toughest job is to control 40 horses while parading before crowds. There are ten horsemen who serve as outriders to control those crowds that converge upon parades.

Paul's mother remembers two incidents in the Milwaukee parade and explains, "A very small boy got away from his parents and ran out into the street. Luckily he ran into the front legs of one of the outriders. Otherwise he would have been crushed to death under the weight of the Belgians. The other near-accident involved a photographer who was lying on the street taking pictures. The horses swerved a bit toward him and one of the outriders quickly nudged the Belgians the other way!"

Feeding the 40 horses at the events this summer was a tremendous chore for the Sparrow family. Paul says, "We used 700 pounds of grain a day to feed them." At least 25 extra men were hired to help care for the horses and prepare them for the four events. Besides the Milwaukee parade, the appearances included the Illinois State Fair, the National Belgian Horse Show at the Great Mississippi Valley Fair in Davenport, Iowa, and finally back home in Zearing for the annual Labor Day Horse Show.

Though Paul did not have much extra time to show his own Belgian horses, he did enter his three mares and a stallion in the halter classes at the National Belgian Horse Show. "My stallion foal took first place, and I got a couple of thirds with the others," remarks the young horseman.

Having raised 20 head of cattle for his FFA program last year, Paul is

strongly thinking of including his Belgian horses in his farming program. He says, "I like horses, but I like all other aspects of farming, too."

The 180-pound varsity basketball forward at Northeast Story County High School in Zearing is confident about his future in saying, "I want to farm. I want to be my own boss and do the things I want to do, not what someone else is always telling me to do. I can't imagine myself working in a factory where I wouldn't feel a sense of accomplishing something I wanted to do."

His present plans are to attend Iowa State University after high school graduation and to study agricultural business. He then plans to join his dad's farm operations which include 1,100 acres for raising grain and livestock.

Though the FFA youth is busy every day, he feels he has an advantage over many city youths and says, "Many kids today don't have enough to occupy their time and energy. It's hard work on a farm, especially in raising a lot of Belgians and other horses, but it's taught me a sense of responsibility."

However, Paul is no different than many young persons, and he admits that he has experienced some of the typical youth problems. He says, "There was a time when I couldn't communicate easily with Dad. But now we try to function together. We just sit down and start to hassle, and it isn't long before we are communicating."

The Sparrow family ties are strong and Paul points out, "By working together and trying to understand each other things work out. My dad has been with horses all his life, and he has taught me a lot about them. My grandpa has helped me, too, because he raised Belgians years ago."

Whether it's driving a team of 40 Belgians down city streets, raising cattle, or riding his favorite quarter horse across farm pastures, Paul Sparrow is always learning.

Here Paul shows one of the mares he entered in the National Belgian Show.

Pen of Five

These five put money together to feed cattle.

Front left: Jimmy, Dale, Ronnie, Tommy, and Jady. Back left: Advisor Turnbough, Dr. Kraus, Mr. Hicks.

ABOUT a year ago five Clovis, New Mexico, FFA members began an innovative beef program. Undertaken as an extension of their vocational agriculture education, the FFA members planned a cooperative business venture from ideas gained in commercial livestock classes.

Tommy Williams, Dale Petty, and Jimmy Black (all 1972 graduates) along with Ronnie Montague and Jady Bell (seniors this year) borrowed over $30,000 from Clovis banks and credit associations to begin a feeder cattle venture. With the help of their parents and Advisor Jim Turnbough they obtained 125 head of "Oakie" heifers and placed them with the Bovina Feeders, Inc., a commercial feedlot.

The quintet agreed that after the cattle were fattened, sold, and all bills paid, any net profit or loss would be split equally between them.

Their feedlot performance record sheet shows the following data:

Purchased—February 26 1972.
- Average purchase weight—429 pounds
- Cost per hundredweight—$39.41
- Fed—147 days
- Daily rate of gain—2.39 pounds
- Cost per pound gained (excluding interest)—.2145 cents

Sold—July 28, 1972
- Average selling weight—780 pounds
- Selling price per cwt.—$35.00
- Death Loss—.8 percent
- Average feed cost per ton—$51.35
- Net profit per head (without interest)—$27.77
- Net profit per head (less interest)—$20.68

The members feel particularly fortunate to have had top professional assistance from Dr. E. E. Kraus, owner of a veterinary clinic in Clovis and consulting veterinarian for the feedlot, and from Mr. Lee Hicks, manager of Bovina Feeders, Inc.

The monetary gain in this instance was favorable. But the real profit, they concede, is measured by the experience derived from the project.

Mr. Hicks points out that the five young cattlemen were treated no differently than any other feedlot customer. However, the FFA members received a full explanation of feedlot procedures and sale recommendations.

"Acceptance of the financial responsibility is the key to the whole project," Mr. Hicks states. "They learned how to handle their money, their cattle, about market fluctuations, and the cattle industry in general."

According to Advisor Turnbough, the idea was "an outgrowth of the pen-of-five event held the previous fall at the Curry County Fair." The pen division proved to be one of the most educational programs connected with the county fair for some time.

Dr. Kraus, who has worked with the Clovis FFA for years, is enthusiastic about the far-flung advantages derived from the feedlot project. He says, "It puts to practical use what they've learned in the classroom."

When asked about borrowing so much money, the members commented it wasn't the point of borrowing so much as it was the reality of having to pay it back that struck home to them. "But now that we've got it all paid off, we definitely have a good credit rating," one proudly states.

Plans are currently being finalized for the purchase of a second feeder herd by other Clovis FFA members. *(By John Meador, Secretary)*

Members of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, FFA examined a sow feeder during their visit in Charles City, Iowa.

Hartington, Nebraska, members told their new friends at Plainview, Minnesota, about the chapter back home.

FFA EXPLORERS

Chapter-to-chapter exchanges let FFA'ers explore agriculture and swap ideas with other members across the nation.

By Jack Pitzer

WHEN 15 Milton-Freewater, Oregon, FFA members visited the Wilber Miles turkey farm near Charles City, Iowa, they found out that he has raised 85,000 turkeys every year.

"This was something new to us as no one raises turkeys in Milton."

This chapter-to-chapter exchange idea is a unique and exciting way for young men and women to really see the broad scope of agriculture in our nation and to discover how other people live and work. The representatives also exchange ideas about FFA and effective chapter programs.

News about FFA chapters sending representatives to each other's community for several day visits—even though they are miles apart—is emerging from a number of states.

Chapters Getting Together

The exchange between Milton-Freewater, Oregon, and Charles City, Iowa, began because the Iowa advisor had worked one summer in the pea harvest in Oregon. He met the Oregon advisor and they planned the exchange.

When the Missoula, Montana, advisor attended a national leadership conference with his chapter president he visited with the Chestnut Ridge, Pennsylvania, advisor. They set up an exchange. Since then Missoula has exchanged juniors (so they can be leaders in their senior year) with Cambridge, Wisconsin, Chapter.

Big Walnut FFA in Sunbury, Ohio, stopped and visited with the Hickman, Missouri, Chapter in Columbia, on the way to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Then Columbia went to Sunbury later in the year.

Hood River, Oregon, FFA'ers went with their advisor to his home in Idaho.

"Swap Shop"

The National FUTURE FARMER believes these chapter-to-chapter exchanges are worthwhile. If your chapter is interested in getting together with another chapter, let us know. We'll maintain a list of chapters who have expressed an interest, then put them in touch with each other.

Include in your letter the dates when you'd like to exchange, what major region of the nation you are interested in, what kind of agriculture you are interested in learning more about, and how many members would likely be in your group.

We will put advisors in touch with each other to work out all the details.

We would also like to hear about any other chapter exchanges already being carried on.

A chapter-to-chapter exchange would be an excellent way for your FFA to celebrate the American Bicentennial era. Our American heritage included exploration of the new. Your chapter can be part of the nationwide effort to get-to-know America better.

Russellville, Missouri, planned an extensive trip up into Colorado and Wyoming and organized a one-night visit with the Burns, Wyoming, FFA. The Missourians visited cattle feedlots, large ranches, and camped in the mountains.

What They Learn

During March of last year Plainview, Minnesota, and Hartington, Nebraska, exchanged their chapter presidents plus representatives from each class.

Each chapter group has a slide presentation about their community, FFA activities, and farming operations. While members were in Hartington or Plainview they lived with host families and attended classes with the member they were living with.

When the 16 members of Hood River, Oregon, went to Idaho with Advisor Gary Horn they stayed at his father's farm. They observed equipment needed on dryland farms and were impressed by the scope and size of operations they visited in the area. "We saw three of five brand new combines costing $37,000 apiece."

They also toured the University of Idaho and later made a presentation at the Troy, Idaho, school about the modular system being used back at Hood River.

When the ten members and advisors from Columbia, Missouri, Chapter had their return visit at Big Walnut, Ohio, they also stayed with host members.

(Continued on Page 27)

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WHAT WILL '73 BRING?

Agricultural economists differ widely on what will happen this year in the marketing of farm products. These expectations will cast open the future for you.

STRONG domestic demand for livestock, huge grain exports, and short world supplies of protein feed are the key uncertainties for 1973. The fact, too, farmers recorded the highest net farm income in history last year—19.2 billion, marks 1973 as a "what if" year.

Using these factors economic forecasters made the following outlook of the year ahead at the 51st USDA National Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C. Their assessment of the future agricultural situation is summarized by *The National FUTURE FARMER* to help you in making upcoming production and management decisions.

Agricultural Finance

Expenses. Farmers will pay substantially higher prices for a number of production inputs this year. Sharply

As you plant your crops or expand your livestock numbers you will wonder, as this FFA member does, what they will bring when you market them.
Ron Miller Photo

higher feed prices and increased replacement livestock costs will be the main elements followed by fertilizer, seed, and petroleum. Credit demands will be higher boosting farm debt by 8 percent to $75.8 billion. Yet only fractional hikes are expected in interest rates.

Incomes. Gross farm income will essentially keep pace with farm production expenses. Thus, net farm income will decrease slightly but stay in the neighborhood of $19 billion. Crop exports—mainly feed grain and soybeans —plus domestic meat consumption will be determining factors in the final income analysis. Farm assets will rise again in 1973, due to a continuing climb in farm real estate values.

Livestock Predictions

Beef. Beef output will be moderately larger than a year earlier. Fed cattle marketings will rise slightly, and cow slaughter will run about equal to last year. The rapidly accelerating growth of cow herds indicates farmers will meet the increasing demand for beef.

With feeder cattle prices running at a record high, beef prices will decline some toward the end of 1973. However, cattle prices are expected to hold strong due to consumer demand.

Hogs. Reflecting an expected increase in the pig crop, hog slaughter will run considerably larger than a year ago. Pork producers are expected to step up farrowings throughout the year.

Hog prices, substantially higher than last year, will soften by the end of 1973 and drop below year earlier prices. Corn prices, too, will weaken so a favorable hog-corn price ratio will be maintained.

Sheep and Lambs. Reflecting a reduction in the number of ewes, the lamb crop will likely decline another 4 to 6 percent. Lamb slaughter will run a little under last year, and fed lamb prices will continue steady with the exception of seasonal declines.

Poultry and Eggs. The prospects for broiler production are cloudy because of higher feed prices, but the turkey crop will expand this year despite higher feed costs. A smaller laying flock will hold total egg output moderately below year earlier levels.

Turkey prices are expected to rise but lag below last year's late price run-up. Meanwhile, broiler prices will likely hold moderately above last year's, and egg prices are expected to remain strong and average moderately higher.

Dairy. Poor quality roughage and short feed supplies will limit milk production until new pasture and forage crops become available. Thus, milk production will be about the same or slightly lower than the 120.3 billion pounds produced last year. Milk output per cow, which rose only 2½ percent last year, is expected to improve as farmers trim their herds in accordance with feed supplies.

With milk prices averaging about $6.45 per hundred pounds, farmer prices promise to average about 4-5 percent more in 1973 than last year. This trend outlook hinges on dairy supports being set at 75 percent of parity, no change in federal order pricing, and the ability of the dairy industry to maintain or exceed last year's commercial product sales.

Crop Projections

Cotton. Despite a 13 percent drop in the national base acreage allotment, cotton plantings will total about 13.9 million acres, down only a half million. Expanding exports and attractive prices are predicted. The preliminary payment of 15 cents per pound is unchanged from last year.

Feed Grains. Farmer acreage plans point to a record feed grain crop if the growing season is normal. Corn acreage will increase by 5 million acres —totaling 71.5 million acres and grain sorghum will rise by 1.7 million acres —equaling 19.1 million acres. Barley and oats seedings will change little.

Prices on all feed grains will likely ease downward but remain above last year's until the new crop developments begin to unfold. Average yields are expected to continue their steady rise.

Rice. The acreage allotment for rice has been raised 10 percent to over 2 million acres, reflecting tight world supplies. Prices are predicted to average over a dollar more than last year's loan rate of $5.27 per hundredweight. Plantings will increase in 1973.

Soybeans and Oil Seeds. Farmers intend to plant 49 million acres to soybeans, up 5 percent from a year ago to meet expanding export demands. Projections for 1973 indicate soybean prices will continue to soar, keeping soybeans as the nation's leading cash crop. Exports will rise some 60 million bushels to a record total of 475 million pounds.

Cottonseed production will be up nearly a third and prices will run lower this year. Flaxseed plantings will decline by 3 percent and prices will gain.

Tobacco. The demand for tobacco products is on the rise. With larger basic quotas, farmers will likely harvest more tobacco so cash receipts should gain. Price support levels for eligible tobaccos will be up 5.3 percent over last year levels.

Wheat. A 6 percent yield increase in the winter wheat crop is indicated, and spring wheat plantings will likely be 15 percent above a year ago. The total 1973 wheat crop is predicted to be moderately above the 1,618 million bushel record of 1971. Prospects are good for record exports, too. Hence, high prices will ease some but will probably average 40 to 50 cents over the $1.25 per bushel loan rate.

Fruits. The production of citrus fruit is expected to reach 13.6 million tons, a 12 percent increase over last year's record harvest. Reflecting a poor deciduous fruit harvest, citrus prices are high relative to last year but are expected to decline. Prices for deciduous fruits will remain generally firm with some gains.

Vegetables and Potatoes. Both fresh and processed vegetable production will be adequate so prices for nearly all items will continue generally favorable. Potato planting intentions are 2 percent larger, but grower prices will tend to remain firm.

Each year forecasters are certain the outlook will bring more than usual uncertainty. The unfolding market trends of 1973 could make the claim valid.

Heading to Route 76

That's the plan used by this chapter to get citizens involved in community improvement.

By Jack Pitzer

This symbol represents a commitment.

IT all started with a letter and a goal. The letter invited community leaders in Winterset, Iowa, to a meeting hosted by the FFA chapter.

Their goal was part of their BOAC project. The FFA wanted to improve their community's appearance, create employment for youth of the community, and renew efforts of natural resource conservation.

The FFA chapter, however, wanted to be the "spark plug" to ignite all citizens into action.

For a theme, the FFA developed "Route 76." The red, white, and blue symbol for their community-county campaign took the shape of a route sign to represent moving forward. The '76 represented 1976, America's Bicentennial year, and terminal year for their project. They placed the symbols around the community as a reminder of the task ahead.

The FFA members developed a slide presentation to describe the improvement needs of the town of Winterset and surrounding Madison County. It also showed good things. Major areas they found needing attention were soil and water erosion, dead elm trees from Dutch Elm disease which hit the county in the last five years, old buildings and sheds which weren't being used, and face lifting of the business districts.

To get complete community involvement, the FFA chapter mailed their letter to folks in the area. Eight businesses contributed enough money to buy two advertisements in local papers. These ads invited all citizens to help, "What work do you have?" "What will you clean up?" "Do you approve of the project?" "What will you plant?"

The Winterset Chapter has used their slides to stimulate civic group interest, such as Rotary, Senior Citizens, and Kiwanis. The County Farm Bureau promoted the project in their newspaper.

A special cooperative project was a tree sale by the Lions Club. They sold 50 balled in burlap, 8 - 10 feet tall trees to citizens and the park. FFA members planted the trees as a service.

The Madison County Board of Health asked the chapter to clean up an old filling station area five miles south of Winterset. Four old buildings were cleaned up, several dead trees were burned, five old junk cars were removed to an area for disposal, and three wagon loads of junk were picked up and hauled off.

The chapter planted 230 autumn olive shrubs at Cedar Lake Park in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation District. The Conservation District and the chapter also cooperated in the purchase of 100 scotch pine seedlings to be given to the Junior Garden Club members in the area. This was an attempt to call attention to the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day. Further, the garden clubs purchased a Bradford pear tree which was set out on the grounds of the new low rent housing development. The district conservationist gave a demonstration on how to plant the tree.

The mayor and the city council of Winterset have launched a campaign to clean up the old junk cars in Winterset. They estimated there were at least 100 of them. To date about 40 have been removed.

The County Board of Health is launching a campaign to have owners clean up and fix up rental properties in the county. If they are not fixed up to the satisfaction of the Board of Health they are to be destroyed.

FFA members and others have reported that 50 old buildings have been cleaned up or disposed of so far. Each week new reports are coming in to the Winterset FFA Chapter about more clean up. The chapter has been contacted to tear down a double corn crib, two barns, and another building later on in the spring or during the summer. Recently five FFA members took down an old grainery. The owner paid them $50.00 for the job.

Sixty-two members of the chapter reported cleaning up 85 projects last year. These ranged from cutting trees, to tearing down buildings, and the removal of junk from their farmsteads.

Guiding the long-range "Route 76" project is Advisor John Bishop.

So far Winterset member Roy Foley has torn down and cleaned up 11 buildings.

"Tex here! Found stray."

BACK THEN PLOWING WAS THE ONLY WAY.

Years ago when your dad started farming, No-Tillage farming was no more than a myth. Sure, the idea of "chemical tillage" was a theory, but the chemicals to make it work didn't exist. Then along came Paraquat, a super-effective, non-selective contact herbicide and No-Tillage farming was suddenly a practical reality.

In simplest terms, No-Till substitutes the use of sophisticated herbicides for most or all mechanical tillage operations. In the words of one agronomist, "The contact herbicide substitutes for the plow and disc while the residual chemical performs the function of the cultivator." With No-Till corn, for example, you plant directly into the trash, sod or stubble of a preceding crop. It's a once-over operation in which you spray a mixture of Paraquat and atrazine, open a seedbed with a notched or fluted coulter, plant your seed and close the seedbed in what is essentially one trip across the field.

Sure, it sounds like a wild idea, but it works. And No-Tillage farming produces yields equal or greater than with conventional methods. But the big reason for switching to the new method is the spectacular economies a farmer can achieve. Labor costs drop, equipment costs drop, soil erosion is greatly decreased. Of great importance, since No-Tillage means minimum soil disturbance, it means that a lot of previously unfarmable hilly land can be put into crop production.

In a few words, No-Tillage farming is here to stay. Already there are some 20 million acres devoted to this technique and that amount could easily quadruple in the next few years.

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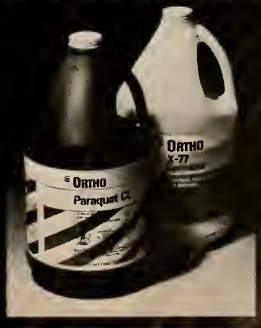

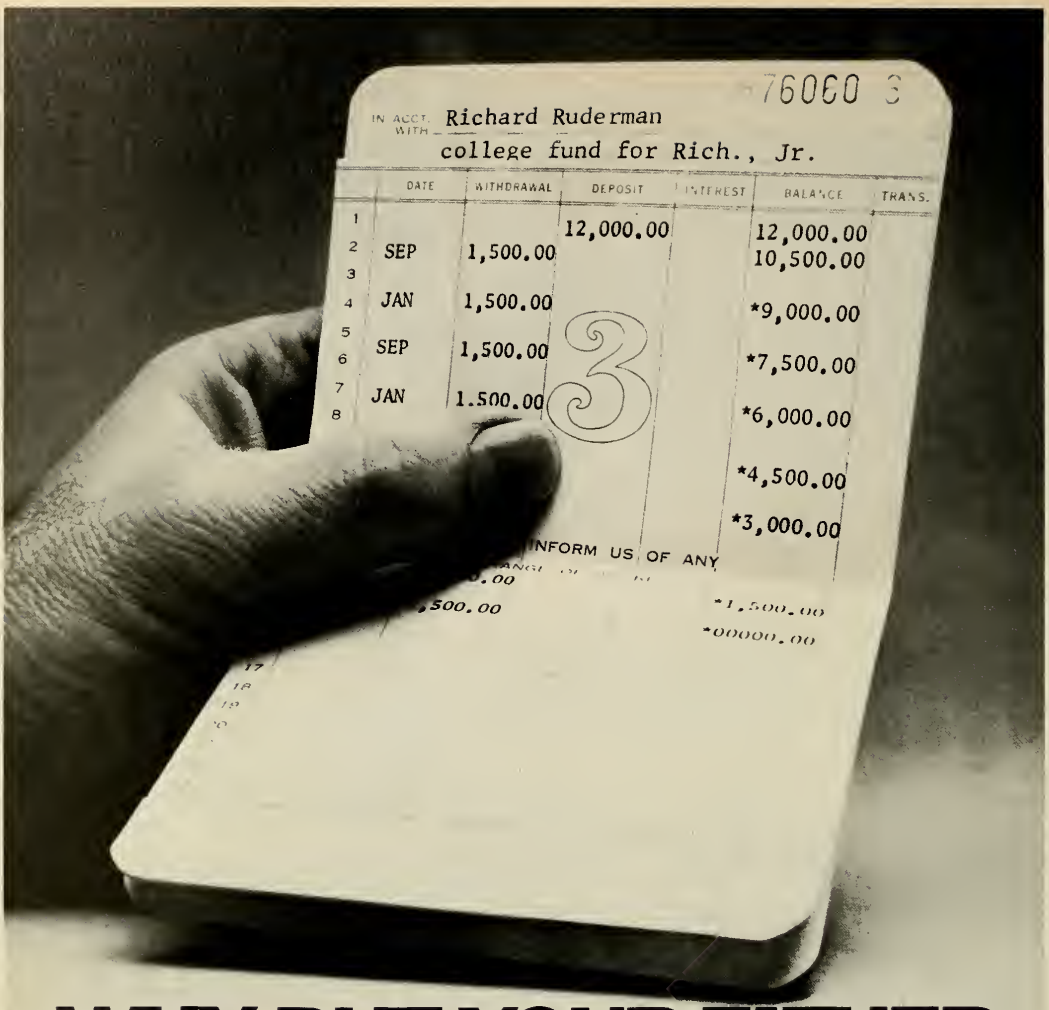

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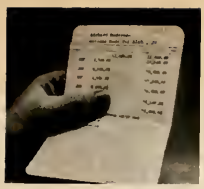

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FFA EXPLORERS

(Continued from Page 20)

The guests helped with farm work and chores as time allowed.

Guests and hosts traveled by bus to tour a lawn seed and equipment company in a nearby town. This tour and refreshments were hosted by a third chapter—Marysville, Ohio. The next day the visitors were given an air tour of Ohio.

A swimming party for the two FFA chapters plus Big Walnut FHA was a fun time.

The exchange between Crosby, Texas, and Clinchport, Virginia, of two students for one week in each town included taking the guests to the host's state convention.

The other half of the Charles City, Iowa, and Milton-Freewater, Oregon, exchange described earlier was full of activities, too. Iowa guests lived and worked on Oregon members' farms. Special tours were arranged for farms with wheat and peas and a pea cannery.

"Traveling that far," reports Randy Heitz of Charles City, "we went through lands which some of us had never seen before and so we'll long remember the trip." The Iowa delegation got to the ocean and even tried their hand at digging clams.

Benefits of Exchanges

Potentials for chapter-to-chapter exchanges are great. The experiences gained from agricultural and geographical differences are most obvious. A good "swap" can broaden ag career outlooks of chapter members. Chapters can share plenty of ideas about fund raising, banquet programs, exhibits, regular meeting features, how to speak, how to get more member involvement, how to involve an alumni chapter, and how to promote FFA and vo-ag.

And the exchange can be a solid basis for new friendships and even some recreation and sightseeing.

Mark Harris and Greg Leaf board the plane for an air tour of Ohio farms.

EXPERIENCE IN PRODUCTION

UNITES YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES

MEMBERS of the Earl C. Baity FFA at Pylesville, Maryland, receive occupational experiences at the North Harford High School on a year-round basis. Besides working in machine shop and greenhouse facilities, members have the opportunity of using school owned land for crop and livestock management.

Members working with crops and livestock utilize 37 acres owned by the North Harford School Board in addition to operating 53 acres of rented land. They farm 63 acres in crops, 10 acres as permanent pasture, and 17 acres as pond, forestry, and horticulture areas.

Typically, the crop acres are devoted to mostly corn and alfalfa, with some barley. The livestock herd includes Angus calves, yearlings, 20 cows, and a bull, for a total of 45 head on hand in the winter. Two groups of 60 hogs and 15 steers are marketed each year.

Vocational agriculture students concentrate on management of the farm rather than operation—although they assist during peak work periods. The farm provides the opportunity to learn about fencing, building, painting, and concrete work, plus livestock, crop, and soil management.

For the most part crops are planted, tended, and harvested by a hired man who devotes most of his time to the farm. Overall management of the farm, or "land laboratory" as the members refer to it, is supervised by one of the three agricultural teachers at the school.

North Harford members use the machinery to practice management skills.

The machine shop serves as "link" between students in all production areas.

Except for custom harvesting of the barley, a full line of machinery is used to operate the farm. As a result, North Harford agriculture students learn to adjust and repair farm equipment.

The agricultural mechanics shop is well equipped for tractor and machinery repair, as well as woodworking and metal work. Among the equipment are: drill presses, a steam cleaner, tractor dynamometer, 11 welders, metal and wood cutting band saws, a 12-inch table saw, and an 8-inch jointer. Approximately 250 vocational agriculture students benefit from these shop facilities as all three teachers share in these responsibilities.

In ornamental horticulture the FFA members manage a turf demonstration plot. They learn to use tillers, tractors, and other outdoor horticulture equipment. In addition, they use an 18- x 35-foot greenhouse which contains a growing area, two nurseries, and several beds of cutting flowers. One instructor oversees the entire horticulture program.

North Harford horticulturists get a chance to work with flowers and turf.

Membership in the Earl C. Baity Chapter numbers 83. Each of the nine agriculture classes has a slate of officers, which along with regular chapter officers, make up the FFA executive committee. The FFA chapter and the executive committee each meet monthly during the school day. Although all three instructors assist with the FFA program, one instructor's primary responsibility is advising the FFA chapter.

The main advantage of the North Harford occupational experience program at the school has been the increased experience in a number of agriculture educational areas. Previously, many students were limited in the opportunities to learn agricultural skills since most home farm operations did not include all of the skill areas.

An appraisal of the North Harford program is revealed in these facts. Over a four-year period 23 percent of the graduates entered college or took advanced training, 40 percent obtained agricultural jobs immediately after high school, 23 percent were using their skills on farms, and only 14 percent were working outside of agriculture. Each year approximately 15 students graduate from the North Harford agricultural and mechanics program, and 10 students graduate from ornamental horticulture. *(By Elmer Cooper, Advisor)*

This is the second in a series of "Unites Youth With Opportunities" articles. The series will tell how various FFA and vocational agribusiness programs are providing youth with the opportunity for experiences in many different areas of agribusiness. Upcoming articles will describe how advisors are using cooperatives, leadership activities, and occupational experiences to prepare students for a life in agriculture.

Doing "Rat Chores"

This science project really "multiplied" on him.

By Willard and Elma Waltner

Craig became "attached to his rat project," especially the control mothers.

CRAIG Hansen, a member of the Viborg, South Dakota, FFA Chapter, is busily involved in many school and extracurricular activities. His swine enterprise, and the evening milking of his dad's 30 to 40 cows also keep him on the go.

And then there are his "rat chores" —an experiment that began as a school Science Fair project when he set out to determine the effect of alcohol on rats.

Craig began his test with eight rats in three pens. Two pregnant females served as his "control group," receiving the same rations as the others, but no alcohol. This group thrived as healthy rats should.

Craig supplied the other rats a vodka mixed with their favorite food, bread and sour milk. One female and two males got a small, but constant amount of alcohol each day of the experiment period. Craig furnished the other pen of one female and two males an increasing daily amount of alcohol.

The "social drinkers," receivers of the minimal amount of alcohol, displayed little health effect, but the "alcoholic rats" soon showed a visual result. Their eyes bulged and their hair got rough and coarse. In general they sat around in a stupor or teetered around drunkenly when they stumbled over for their "swig."

The offspring of the alcoholic mothers "did not seem to grow at all," according to Craig. They sickened and died one after another—miserable, dehydrated specimens.

But the real damage showed up when Craig and the veterinarian dissected the rats at the conclusion of the two-month experiment. The liver of the alcoholic rats was badly deteriorated and in a few more days would have "exploded," in the animal doctor's opinion. They had stomach ulcers, an extremely enlarged colon, little body fat, and pneumonia on their discolored lungs. The control rats, on the other hand, showed "a nice fat inside with everything in order."

Craig's experiment won first place in his division at the school Science Fair, second in the regional fair, and numerous other awards. But it also gave Craig a personal impression. "Seeing the effect of alcohol on rats has convinced me that I want no part of alcohol in my life," he says.

Craig's first place display featured a journal with his daily observations.

Waltner Photos

Many at Mini-Meet

Once there they found leadership opportunity.

MEMBERS of FFA chapters within a 150-mile radius of Quincy, Illinois, were invited to a Mini-Leadership Conference. About 300 attended the conference conducted by the six national FFA officers. Members from Missouri and Iowa as well as Illinois participated in the conference.

The discussion groups got everyone involved in the many leadership topics.

The national officers formed a reception line for meeting participants.

The national officers began the meeting by greeting chapter members as they arrived shortly after 10 a.m. The conference included a "brainstorming" session, with members divided into 14 groups. Each group was given a subject and asked to develop ideas on it. Group chairmen met later and made final summaries.

Moorman Manufacturing Company hosted the meeting at their Sales Education Center and lunch in the company cafeteria.

The national officers began the day by filming telecasts and eating breakfast with members of the Moorman Advisory Board.

Over 600 people attended the banquet in honor of the Montrose advisor.

A LASTING TRIBUTE

Members of this chapter used their large banquet to pay tribute to their advisor.

The painting portrays many of the things this vocational agriculture teacher means to them.

THE feelings FFA members have for their advisor are often hard to convey. As their trusted friend, counselor, and instructor, he means more than words or trophies can express. This is especially true of members at Montrose, Colorado, in their admiration for Advisor DeVon Clark, the local instructor of agriculture for 29 years.

But the Montrose members found a way to put their feelings across when they presented Advisor Clark with a painted portrait of himself. Outgoing Montrose President Ted Jones made the presentation on behalf of the classes of 1972 through 1975 at the chapter's 25th banquet last year.

The portrait reveals Advisor Clark with a western hat as he is fondly visualized by present and past members. Looking further one can see illustrated many FFA activities led by Advisor Clark—including the annual chapter wilderness camping trip (featured in "A Trek into the Wilderness" of the June-July 1971 issue), ranch visits to check members' crops or livestock, trips to meetings or livestock shows, and many of the other activities performed by an advisor in leading a chapter.

"In selecting an artist we feel fortunate to have secured the services of Mr. Terrence Clark of San Angelo, Texas, the famed western artist who did a similar portrait of Will Rogers," says past President Jones. Until the painter was introduced at the banquet, to the surprise of Advisor Clark and the audience, he had never met the agriculture instructor. However, members had provided the artist with access to over 50 photographs of their advisor to create the 24- x 36-inch likeness which was paid for by the members.

Advisor Clark's success over the years is emphatically illustrated in the attendance of over 600 at the banquet and the remainder of the program. The Montrose function, like most parent and son banquets, features the presentation of degrees to Greenhands and Chapter Farmers, awards to proficiency winners and honorary members, and the announcing of new chapter officers.

But they add the fanfare, too. For openers they serve a complete steak dinner, host a senator, congressman, or past national FFA officer as the main speaker, honor a chapter mother, and elect a chapter sweetheart.

Yet the most spectacular part of the program is the finale—one of four different pageants designed by the FFA members. Each program includes a title theme, narration, high school band accompaniment, and an FFA chorus.

Last year's pageant, also presented at the Colorado FFA Convention, was entitled "Assembly of the Emblem." It featured a 20-foot color lighted FFA emblem and six high school girls posing as statuettes. At scheduled times during the narration the girls, dressed in gold swim suits and covered with gold makeup, appear representing the following: Religion (Cross); New Era in Agriculture (Rising Sun); Freedom (Liberty Flame); Knowledge (Book); Production (Sheath of Grain); and the History of Corn (Indian Girl).

And behind all this member involvement is an advisor they "love and appreciate" as mentioned on their portrait. "Dee in essence lets the members plan their own programs, set up chapter rules, and discipline themselves," says National FFA Executive Secretary William Paul Gray, a former Colorado vo-ag teacher and longtime friend of Advisor Clark. "Through him members really gain the feeling of responsible citizenship. Serving as a critic teacher for agricultural education students studying at Colorado State University, Dee 'instilled them with the desire to teach.'"

Advisor Clark admits receiving the color portrait was the greatest thing that ever happened to him and that he almost lost his composure at the time. Yet another lasting tribute was made to Advisor DeVon Clark at the 1972 National FFA Convention when he was presented the Honorary American Farmer degree.

Advisor Clark watches as Ted Jones honors Mr. Terrence Clark with a plaque.
Ben Walker Photos

The Lee Rider: Bobby Berger.

"I guess bronc ridin's my favorite. Some of these old broncs been around for years. And you admire 'em. They just never quit.

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Small Fish, Big Scale

Rare as it may seem, this FFA'er sells tropical fish to every part of the U.S.

Handling traps requires extra care. Rudy sets a plastic one in the black-molly pool located in front of him.

MOST pool raised fish in the United States are grown by producers within a 20-mile radius of Tampa, Florida. In fact, tropical fish make up the largest single item of air freight being shipped out of Florida.

One such producer of tropical fish is Rudy Wetherington, the Florida FFA Association president. He lives about 20 miles east of Tampa and farms 188 pools in partnership with his dad on a 23-acre fish farm near Dover. Several years ago Rudy's dad, upon returning to his native Hillsborough County, began what he and Rudy have developed into one of the largest tropical fish farms in America.

As a freshman Rudy managed two pools, grossing almost $2,000 and selling over 10,000 from each pool. He then switched his concentration from beef cattle, although he maintains a 20-head mixed breed herd and registered Angus bull. The next year he operated 15 pools and has since increased his share of the partnership to 40 pools. He annually raises more than a million tropical fish—including swordtails, black mollies, and platties.

Rudy usually stocks a pool with 200 to 500 breeder fish, depending on the variety. Female fish can produce thousands of offspring three to four times yearly and create a population problem. For this reason Rudy must constantly trap and grade them to eliminate off colored and undesirable sizes of fish.

"A pool receiving intensive care will yield anywhere from zero to over 10,000 fish per year depending on disease and weather," says Rudy, a winner of the area Fish and Wildlife Management Proficiency award. "A closely graded group of tropical fish are bringing about $75.00 per thousand."

All of the fish on the Wetherington farm are fed six days a week, except on days before trapping. Fish food currently costs them approximately $12.00 per hundred pounds, and they daily feed around 300 pounds. Rudy, a former secretary and president of the Turkey Creek Chapter, fertilizes his pools about three times a year to promote plankton growth for the fish to eat.

According to Rudy it requires approximately $200 to construct a pool 20- x 65-feet in size. It takes another $100 to install a water supply for the fish. Each pool needs to be pumped, washed, cleaned, and filled with water from a deep-well at least once a year.

Rudy catches his fish in two types of traps, plastic and wire. The fish farmer then grades the fish according to breed, color, size, condition, and sex and places them into aquariums. The fish are held there for 24 to 48 hours to receive medication and be conditioned for shipping.

Finally Rudy puts the fish in polyethylene bags filled one-quarter full with water and medication and the rest with oxygen before tying the top with a heavy duty rubber band. Rudy puts the bags of fish in styrofoam boxes which are packaged in standard cardboard fish boxes.

All of the tropical fish raised by the Wetherington's are sold in large quantities to a national distributor. Rudy's fish are shipped throughout the United States to pet shops and variety stores to be enjoyed in homes, offices, and churches.

Besides being an extremely skilled fish farmer, Rudy has been an active FFA officer. "Rudy has shown outstanding dedication in the FFA and is one of the hardest working students I've ever had," points out Advisor Oscar Lastsinger. Rudy is a member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and the Society of Outstanding American High School Students.

Here Rudy explains sizing and color variation in different breeds being held for conditioning in aquariums.

Rudy returns fish too small for marketing to pools as he grades saleable fish. Both types of traps are shown.

A Tour of Rural Life

It gave children a chance to see a world unknown to them.

SOME 1,650 kindergarten pupils from 38 schools in Allen County, Indiana, got their first look at farm life on a rural field trip. The kindergarteners, with the help of FFA members from six chapters in the Fort Wayne area, visited a farm and received a lecture tour of the place.

Indiana FFA President Al Neidlinger was on hand for the tour festivities.
WKJG-TV Photos

The rural field trip was organized by Mr. Wayne Rothgeb, farm director at WKJG-TV, and FFA chapters at Carroll, Heritage, Churubusco, Columbia City, Woodlan, and Huntington High Schools. FFA members furnished the farm animals plus assisting with the building of pens. A wildlife biologist provided a station featuring his dog, and a forester set up a stop near a forest.

The tours were conducted for almost two days on a farm owned by Mrs. Fred Kraft. A large tag containing the first name was pinned to the child's clothing so FFA members stationed at the various tour stops could answer questions with a "personal touch."

Each stop consisted of a lecture, question and answer session, and time for the children to touch, pet, or hold the animal or machine. The children were brought in contact with cows, goats, ponies, pigs, chickens, rabbits, sheep, grains, milking machines, and farm machinery. They even hiked through a forest and got a close-up view of some wild animals (stuffed and live).

The children got the "feel" of how a milking machine operates at this stop.

The impressions of the rural tour varied greatly. One girl listened to the lecture about hogs with her hands held over her nose and mouth. Still other youngsters turned up their noses after hearing yolks are "chicks that aren't alive." But the children, as one lecturer reports "got a chance to get outside of four walls and explore farm life."

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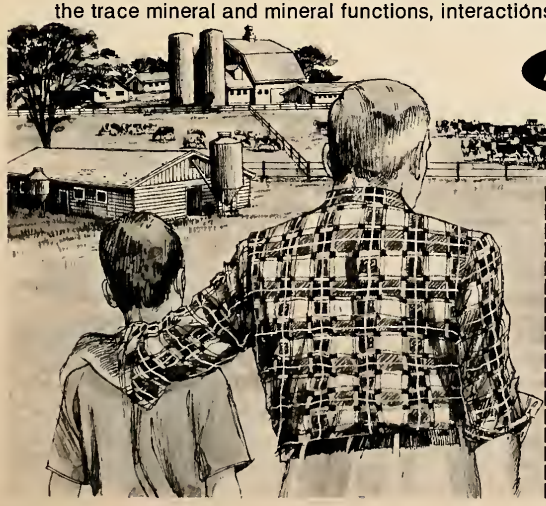

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They Can Split A Second

Why can't you hit a flying target like the experts or hit a speeding ball like the stars? Here's why!

By Irwin Ross, Ph. D.

HOW does the expert skeetshooter do it—25 straight hits on a windy day as the birds streak a mile-a-minute through the air like comets, while you miss more than you hit?

How does a Rosewall or a Laver leap across ten feet of space in a fast tennis match, put a racket in front of a cannonading ball at just the right angle so it glides back into the corner of the court where the opponent isn't?

An ace pitcher winds up and lays his fast one in, so it seems no more than a flash of white to you. Yet a Kaline or an Aaron is able to drive it back with ease for a solid base hit.

A jet pilot shoots down three enemy planes so fast two of them fall through the air at once. Still he returns to his base without a scratch.

How come? The answer is simple.

To the skeet expert, the targets look as big as dishpans. A Rosewall or Laver has no trouble following a zipping ball. To a Kaline or Aaron, those pitches float up to them looking as big as pumpkins. And the jet pilot actually finds the enemy plane isn't moving that fast.

Why? Because they "split the second" into a thousand parts!

The super-athlete can literally slow objects to a standstill. He has the coordination that the non-expert can't imagine and the watch can't record. This "second-splitting" enables him to feel there is plenty of time to do what seems incredible to the less gifted and less highly trained.

A good shot does not throw his gun barrel in the general direction of what he wants to hit and pull the trigger. He aims. As the good shooter's eye becomes trained, the moving object to be hit "seems" to slow down and "seems" to grow larger. The man behind the gun begins to have the illusion it is not necessary to hurry, and hitting what he wants to shoot is so extremely easy it becomes almost ridiculous.

Eyesight, plus infinitely rapid muscular reaction, is the story back of the great hitters in baseball. The wonderful eyes "slow" and "stop" the best fast balls and the trickiest curves. Most of the hitters don't actually see the ball when they hit it, though a few claim they follow the ball clear up to the spot where the bat smacks it. Rogers Hornsby used to insist a batter ought to hit every ball he swung at, though he, of course, was unable to carry the theory out 1,000 percent.

Timing is virtually the whole story in hitting a baseball, requiring the correct working together of eyesight and muscular reaction. The eyes transmit a vision of the projected course of a flying ball, and the muscles then, almost instinctively, adjust themselves to bring the bat around at the infinitesimal point to meet the ball.

Because of the delicacy of this physiological adjustment, which is possibly more complex than the mechanism of our space rockets, ballplayers are extremely careful about both their eyes and their muscles. Many of them will not read much—especially on a train or bus. They are also very careful about doing work that might disturb the muscular makeup needed for hitting.

In tennis when you are "hot," when your eye is "in," the hardest-hit drive looks three times as big as usual. At the crucial moment before you sock it, you have the illusion the ball was hanging there simply waiting to be put away.

Why can the top prize fighters pick off their foes' punches with the simplest of defensive blocks, and land lightning blows of their own at the very second the less skilled foe leaves his chin exposed? For the very same reason.

Though the answer is simple, the ability is hard. It takes natural ability, trained eyes, and physical practice to "split seconds."

What happens when a good hunter starts to miss his game, when the boxer is off in his timing, when the batting star starts to strike out, when the tennis player loses his timing?

Nothing has happened except they have lost their "eye." The ability to slow down moving objects with trained eyes has suddenly deserted these worthy athletes, and for a time they are seeing things as ordinary mortals see them.

Whatever the cause—emotional, psychological—it isn't the muscles that fail, but their eyes. They have lost their power to "split the second."

"Well, there goes my old record and my old shorts!"

Nylon 66. The gun with nine lives. And then some.

It's said that cats have nine lives, because of their remarkable ability to survive catastrophe. Our Nylon 66 automatic rifle has that same ability. And it has at least six more lives, to boot. Here's the story:

At our Research Center in Ilion, New York, Remington engineers fired *75,000 rounds* from a single Nylon 66 22 caliber, automatic rim fire rifle. At the end of the test, there had been no malfunctions and the gun remained in good firing condition. Now, if you figure that the average number of rounds fired in a gun in a lifetime is approximately 5,000 rounds—and that's on the high side—then that Nylon 66 had been fired for the equivalent of *fifteen lifetimes.*

Actually though, one lifetime of exceptionally reliable use is enough for most of us. And that's the very least you'll get from the Nylon 66. We designed it to take an incredible amount of abuse. It performs beautifully in any weather.

Remington engineer test firing the Nylon 66.

And it's as free of malfunction as a gun can be. We know of one story, for example, where a Nylon 66 was burned in a fire. After the soot and dust were cleaned from it, the gun was fired. It worked. And that's not surprising, because in tests we've shot the Nylon 66 at a scorching 250° F. We've frozen it and fired it at minus 40°F. We've soaked it in water. Covered it with dust. Buried it in mud. And each time, our Nylon 66 came out shooting. If you can find a better 22 than that, buy it.

What gives this gun its remarkable durability? It's the exclusive Remington design incorporating a super-tough structural nylon —Du Pont ZYTEL®—as the material for the fore-end and stock. ZYTEL is so tough, in fact, that it's used to make everything from high-stress machinery gears to horseshoes. In the Nylon 66, it makes a stock that will not warp, crack, chip, peel or fade for the life of the gun.

So you have an extremely rugged rifle that doesn't need babying. It can bounce around the back of a truck, lie in a dusty closet for months, slosh around in the bottom of a canoe or even sit outside your igloo day after day. And every time, when you're ready to use it, it's ready to fire.

And when you fire your Nylon 66, you'll find it an exceptionally accurate gun. The same barrel-bedding principle used on the world's most expensive target rifles is used on the Nylon 66. The action never needs lubrication, either, because the metal parts glide on "greaseless bearings" of nylon that resist dust, dirt and grit, a cause of malfunctions in other automatics.

Tom Frye

Did you ever hear of Tom Frye? He was a Remington Field Representative when the gun was first introduced in 1959, and he wanted to demonstrate its amazing performance and accuracy. So using two Nylon 66's in relays (and Peters 22 long rifle cartridges), he had assistants toss 2¾" wooden blocks as targets. *Out of 100,010 targets tossed, Tom hit all but six*—a record which stands to this day. There wasn't a single malfunction, and the guns finished in great shape.

We think the Nylon 66 is the most rugged rifle you can buy. And for the money, one of the most accurate. It's available with either a brown stock and blued receiver (Mohawk Brown model—$59.95*), or a black stock with a chrome-plated receiver and barrel (Apache Black model—$64.95*). Both are tube-fed and have a capacity of fourteen 22 caliber long rifle cartridges.

And while you're at it, get yourself a supply of Remington high velocity 22s with "golden" bullets. They're coated with a special hard, dry lubricant that won't pick up dirt or lint to carry into the mechanism of the rifle. And they have "Kleanbore" priming so they won't leave residue to corrode the barrel. (This ammunition is designed and tested to work efficiently with the Nylon 66. So it makes sense that you should use it.)

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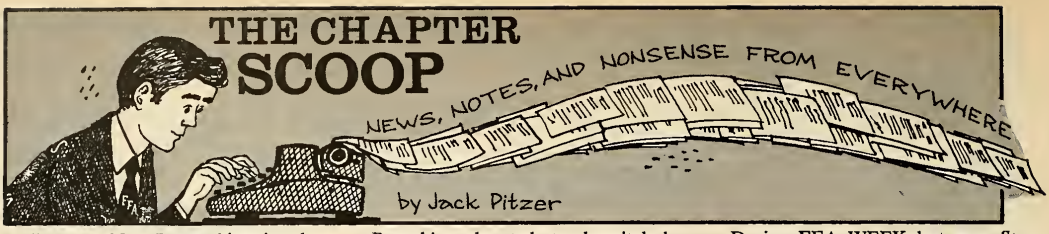


Allentown, New Jersey, historian dug up photos of students building the ag building in 1942. Published them in chapter newsletter.

N-N-N

FFA members of the *McKenzie,* Alabama, get mail through five different post office addresses.

N-N-N

Eldridge, Iowa, FFA bought a refrigerator to store sales merchandise like candy bars and milk.

N-N-N

Chapter level public speaking elimination contest for *Burns,* Wyoming, is at a school assembly.

N-N-N

Three Arizona chapters got together for Greenhand and Chapter Farmer initiation. *Canyon de Chelly* hosted *Monument Valley* and *Window Rock.*

N-N-N

Many, many chapters around the nation collected food for needy families like *Winnfield,* Louisiana, at Christmas.

N-N-N

At *Beaumont,* Texas, high school of 1,200, the FFA collected more for Teen March of Dimes than all other groups. Good work.

N-N-N

Middlebourne, West Virginia, Chapter has 10 percent of its members on honor society. **Lemon Dotson, Mark Hickman, Paula Ash.**

N-N-N

Members of *Corona,* California, brought their animals to a Saturday morning showmanship clinic. Training for new members, brush-up for the old.

N-N-N

Mason Valley, Nebraska, reports their annual Christmas tree haul.

N-N-N

Jan and **Jay Runner** are twins and **Lynn** and **Leon Hunt** are twins. They're all members of *Northwestern,* Sciota, Illinois, FFA.

N-N-N

White Salmon and *Goldendale,* Washington, Chapters are in a basketball league with three Oregon chapters. Dalles, Hood River Valley, and Sherman.

Pumpkins donated to hospital by *Governor Mifflin,* Pennsylvania, FFA were decorated by patients in one ward and given to kiddies ward.

N-N-N

Killingly, Connecticut, Chapter held a parliamentary procedure and leadership workshop for officers and advisors of other school organizations.

N-N-N

Each Monday a.m. *Powell Valley,* Speedwell, Tennessee, cleans up trash on school grounds.

N-N-N

What special training will you provide for the officers who are elected to lead your chapter next year?

N-N-N

Another question. Was your chapter banquet a success? Was it something special? Did your parents like it? Was the food good? Let me know.

N-N-N

Ten seniors of *Absarokee,* Montana, and advisor drove to Denver Stock Show.

N-N-N

Moore, Oklahoma, sold sausage to townspeople.

N-N-N

Greenhands at *Nashville,* Arkansas, entertained members with solos and group songs, including "Hail To The FFA."

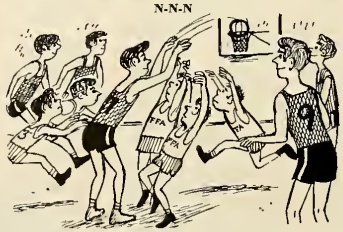
N-N-N

Marshfield, Missouri, members played teachers in a donkey game.

N-N-N

"We co-sponsored a snowmobile safety class with adult farmer class and local businessmen." *West Union,* Iowa.

N-N-N



What a game! *Jefferson,* Wisconsin, basketball team defeated a rival chapter by 108-14.

N-N-N

Bend, Oregon, has an innertubing party. I asked them, "What's that?" They replied, "We use inflated innertubes just like sleds on a hill covered with snow. Great fun!"

N-N-N

And so many chapters reported selling citrus. I'm convinced it's a good project. Now tell us about all the other great activities.

During FFA WEEK last year *Stanwood,* Washington, Chapter supplied goodies for the school faculty.

N-N-N

New chapter chartered at Montgomery County Joint Vocational School in *Clayton,* Ohio.

N-N-N

Pine Grove, Mississippi, bought used school bus. Fixed it up. Painted it blue and gold.

N-N-N

Menu of *Mount Baker,* Washington, FFA banquet featured barbecued salmon.

N-N-N

Bruce Mann, *Lompoc,* California, FFA'er won a $200 memorial scholarship, a $200 tool box, and $200 first prize in Lincoln arc welding contest. All for his ag mechanics skills.

N-N-N

Norton, Kansas, Chapter raked lawns for elderly. But had to switch project to shoveling snow.

N-N-N

Two good ideas from *Redfield,* South Dakota. Showed slides of national convention for Greenhand installation and their parents. Then invited them to stay for lunch.

N-N-N

Juniors and seniors of *Grayson,* Kentucky, FFA built a new greenhouse.

N-N-N

The *Dawson County,* Georgia, Chapter started a calf chain for Greenhands.

N-N-N

Doug Thompson raised 47 wild turkeys which the *Cannon Falls,* Minnesota, Chapter released in the area.

N-N-N

Fifteen items of old farm equipment were reconditioned by *Collins,* Mississippi, FFA. Used by state for an exhibit.

N-N-N

I found 19 words in the *John Bowne,* New York, Chapter newsletter puzzle. This chapter is in New York City and anxious to visit other chapters.

N-N-N

Where, Oh Where have all the reporters been hiding? Don't be the last chapter in your state to get into print. Whether it's news, notes, or nonsense, send it.

FFA in Action

Training "Wheels"

There was a full battery of high level speakers and FFA officials on hand for the first Regional State Officer Leadership Conference for 1973.

Officers from Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey were participants or trainees for the weekend session in Alexandria, Virginia. The national officer team served as a training task force for the event.

Keynote speaker for the Friday evening session of the conference at the FFA Center was freshman congressman from Missouri, Jerry Litton. He "fired up" the officers with his remarks on "Leadership for the Future." Mr. Litton is a past national FFA secretary and a well-known cattle breeder.

Saturday's work session began with remarks by Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture Herb Plambeck. Officers worked on all phases of communications including public speaking, telephone usage, good letters, thank you notes, introductions, and ceremonies.

National FFA Advisor H. N. Hunsicker extended "The Challenge of Leadership" to the conference on Sunday morning.

Dates and locations of the remaining Regional State Officer Leadership Conferences are listed in the "Calendar of Events" on page 40.

Congressman Litton and Vice President Tim hail from Chillicothe, Missouri.

Learn and Earn

Members of the Bushnell-Prairie City, Illinois, FFA formed a cooperative themselves after studying about cooperatives in class and listening to a local co-op manager. Steven Hess, chapter vice president, was elected manager of the cooperative with Jay Melvin as secretary-treasurer.

A limited number of shares were printed and sold at a rate set by the elected board of directors. All class members were given a chance to buy or sell their shares during the exercise.

With the capital secured by selling shares the members purchased materials to build two hog shades. All members participated in the construction, and the finished product, with the cooperation of the local lumber yard, was put on the market.

When both sheds were sold, the members owning shares received dividends on their original investment. Share owners learned and earned much with their cooperative project. The members also plan to tour area cooperatives. *(Mike Sharon, Reporter)*

Down Under

Swan Hill Guardian Photo

Stephen Hunt, Kentucky, center, and Mike McClure and Lyall Thiessen, both of Kansas, visited Future Farmers in Swan Hill, Australia, on the way from a Work Experience in New Zealand.

Suffers First Loss

The National FFA Officer team lost their first basketball game to the Tri-Valley, New York, FFA Chapter. The game could have been won by the national officers if the last jump shot had been made at the final buzzer.

The national officer team had a balanced attack with President Dwight Seegmiller; Vice Presidents Zane Hansen and Bruce Erath; and Associate Executive Secretary Coleman (jumpshot) Harris, player-coach, as leading scorers. Secretary Jerry Goolsby and Vice President Robert Hinton played a tight defensive game to contribute to the team score. Vice President Tim Daugherty was on assignment at Cornell University.

The Tri-Valley FFA team's scoring was lead by Sam Bertholf, with 18 points. He was helped in the scoring by

The national officer basketball team was outfitted in official T-shirts for the big match against Tri-Valley.

Butch Stratton, Jim Gorman, and Garry Eltz. State President Allen Bitter and Walter Garigliano while not scoring played a good defensive game.

The school pep band kept the tempo of the game going and was an important part of the evening's activities. After the game the chapter members and parents had a chance to meet and talk with the national officers while enjoying some refreshments in the cafeteria. *(Richard Strangeway, Advisor)*

Peanut Togetherness

A mutual interest in peanuts has brought together two local FFA chapters and two rural communities, geographically separated by a span of 1,350 miles, and fused them in warmest friendship. This is the Hartford, Alabama-Litchfield, Minnesota, story! (See "Dairy or Peanut Butter" in December-January 72-73 issue.)

It all began one-year-ago when Mr. Bruce Cottington and Advisor Ken Stark issued an invitation for an Alabama FFA'er to participate in the first International Peanut Butter and Dairy Festival in Meeker County, Minnesota. Mr. Cottington is a big promoter of dairy products and peanut butter, and Mr. Stark is an agriculture teacher.

(Continued on Next Page)

Brent Schultz and fellow Minnesotans toured an Alabama peanut processing plant while touring "peanut country."

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 37)

In making their "invite" for Alabamians to make the trip to Minnesota, all expenses paid, the Minnesotans made one prime specification. The member had to be a peanut farmer.

Excited by the offer, Neil Outlaw, Hartford FFA member, his mother and father, and FFA Advisor and Mrs. P. C. Dean went north.

At the gala banquet held in conjunction with the agriculture festival, Neil was presented a $200 scholarship and the Alabamians were treated royally.

So cordial was their reception in Litchfield, the Hartford people made immediate plans to reciprocate. Enlisting the whole Hartford community—town council, civic clubs, school personnel, and everybody—the Outlaws and Deans played return host last month to Brent Schultz, a Litchfield FFA member, "Peanuts" Cottington, and Mr. and Mrs. Stark for a four-day goodwill tour of southeast Alabama.

While in Alabama the Minnesota delegation visited Governor Wallace. They toured a peanut butter manufacturing plant, took in Dothan's National Peanut Festival, and got firsthand exposure to peanut production. It was probably FFA'er Schultz's first time to see peanuts harvested.

When asked why he chose the FFA instead of other vehicles or youth groups to work with, Mr. Cottington beamed, "I believe in it. The FFA is superior to all organizations in rendering rural development."

When asked why he was sold on peanuts, he said, "I happen to like peanut butter!" *(Cecil Gant)*

Traveling Zoo

The FFA chapter at Colleton, South Carolina, came up with a unique project—a traveling zoo.

The FFA members collected various farm animals and exhibited them to all elementary and junior high schools in the county. FFA Advisor J. B. Middleton states, "We got the idea from Mr. W. R. Carter, district consultant for vocational agricultural education, and members were enthusiastic about it."

The Colleton, South Carolina, FFA'ers enjoyed showing animals to the kids.

The chapter members borrowed a cotton trailer and renovated it to handle animals borrowed from vocational agriculture students.

The animals displayed included a deer, a sow and pigs, a turkey, a pair of rabbits, a goat, ducks, a chicken and a calf.

"I think the children really enjoyed the exhibit. Even the youngsters who live on farms weren't familiar with all the animals. Of course, everybody's favorite was the deer, who was very tame," according to Advisor Middleton.

Fifty Banquets

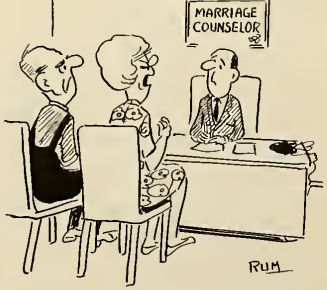
The Modesto, California, FFA recently celebrated its 50th annual parent-member banquet. This special event was held at Central High's auditorium where almost 400 members and guests attended to reminisce old times.

Nearly 100 past State Farmers were among those honored. Past and present members were able to talk over past experiences and achievements. Before the program, the guests were able to view various trophies, banners, awards, old scrapbooks and chapter newspapers, yearbooks, and other interesting awards that the Modesto FFA has achieved over the past half-century.

There is an explanation as to why they celebrated their 50th banquet. At Modesto High an ag class was started in 1916. Then an Ag Club was started in 1918. After things started rolling the club gave an ag banquet in the school year of 1922-23 and invited the members and their parents. Finally in 1930 the FFA chapter was officially chartered and banquets simply continued.

After an excellent catered meal, the tables were cleared and President Gordon Heinrich gave the evening welcome, followed by freshman Randy Heinrich who recited the FFA Creed.

Awards during the evening included the Scholastic Achievement award giv-



"There's only one thing standing in the way of a successful marriage—him!"

en to: senior, Mark Brubaker; junior, John Boyd; sophomore, Benton Hart; and freshman, David Zellman.

Highlights of the chapter's past year's activities were presented by John Boyd, including accomplishments up to the present banquet. Past Advisor Donald Heintz, presented Golden State Farmer degrees to seven FFA members.

The chapter was then presented the National Chapter award which it has received continually since 1949. Three chapter members then received the highest national award possible, the American Farmer degree.

This year the chapter gave two Honorary Chapter degrees. One to past Advisor Heintz, and one to current instructor, Advisor Russel Cosgrave.

To top off a highly successful evening, Modesto High's principal, Mr. Eugene Mould gave his slide presentation called "America the Beautiful" showing scenic pictures he has taken of the United States. *(John Boyd, Reporter)*

Inauguration Crowd

National officers braved cold winds in Washington for the presidential inauguration on the Capitol grounds.

Give A Day to FFA

The FFA Alumni's major thrust to gain membership called "Operation Teamwork" is being continued into the summer.

You are an important part of this effort to unite support for the FFA by building FFA Alumni membership in every community all across America.

If you sign up ten or more Alumni members you can charter an FFA Alumni chapter in your community.

Most FFA members will find at least one former or honorary member right in their own family. Every Alumni member you sign will receive a Special Membership Card. If you help form an affiliate, your chapter will receive a Charter Certificate and a handsome Roll of Charter Members Scroll.

Everyone who signs up ten or more Alumni members will receive the "Legion of Merit" citation and will be honored at the National FFA Convention.

Dues are $4.00 for annual membership, $100 for life membership. Send applications or requests for more information to: FFA Alumni Association, Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Picnic Tables on Sale

Construction of picnic tables can be a fund raiser plus community service.

Building picnic tables and benches out of concrete is the primary money making project of Foley, Alabama, FFA. The chapter began the project two years ago.

Originally the second hand cement forms cost the vocational agriculture department $175. Construction materials for one table costs about $21.00. Because of time required for the setting of the cement, it takes several members about four hours to form six bench legs but less time to make two bench seats and one table.

"The demand for the tables continues real strong and people ask when they will be ready right after school opens in the fall," says Advisor Bobby Hanks. This year the chapter hopes to sell about 25 table and bench sets for around $50.00 each. Most of the tables sold are used on lawns and patios, and many faculty members are among the buyers.

In addition, between 25 and 30 tables have been placed on campus for eating lunch and school activities. The students "really make use of them" and some tables are even painted blue and gold —which are also the school's colors.

Profits from the project are used to finance the annual chapter banquet. This year Foley members also plan to replace tools in the shop and hold a spring barbecue with the proceeds.

Team Triumph

Winner of the FFA livestock judging contest at the Denver National Western Stock Show was the Kansas team represented by Kiowa.

The contest consists of judging eight classes of livestock including three species of cattle, sheep, and swine.

Bret Spicer received the high individual trophy in the swine judging while Fred Gillig received the trophy for being the high individual in judging sheep. Fred also won a second trophy for scoring the most points of any FFA member at the contest.

Other placings by members of the Kansas team were: Kent Harbaugh, fourth in beef; Fred Gillig, second in

(Continued on Next Page)

hunting hints

Always sneak up on a pothole from the upwind side, that is, with the wind at your back. Ducks invariably flush into the wind, so they will start your way as they get up off of the water. Even if they flare off immediately, you will gain a few precious seconds in which to get off a shot or two.

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 39)

beef; Kent Harbaugh, sixth overall; Bret Spicer, third overall.

Official placings of the first five teams were: Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Nebraska.

Speaking English

FFA has helped Jesse Armenteros learn the language and discover agriculture.

The main goal of Jesse Armenteros of Panama when he came to the United States four years ago was to learn English. "I feel I have accomplished this goal by winning the state FFA public speaking contest," remarks Jesse, a member at Winter, California.

The Winters FFA'er also participated in parliamentary procedure as chairman of the sectional winning team and on livestock judging teams. He previously served as chapter treasurer and is the current president of the Winters FFA. Jesse's other high school activities include membership in the photography club and work on the *Winters Express* as a printer's apprentice.

Throughout vocational agriculture Jesse, who lives with an uncle on a small farm, maintained a farming program of cattle, layers, and fryers. Jesse says, "After I finish high school I would like to go back to Panama to see my folks." Following his trip to Panama Jesse hopes to study agriculture at California Polytechnic Institute.

Prize Porker

Cloister, Pennsylvania, FFA'ers Marlin Smoker, left, and Richard Bollinger, raised 16 pigs in partnership. One of the Hamp-York crosses was named grand champion at the Lancaster County FFA show and was sold for $1.12 per pound.

Foot Work

Horseshoeing demonstrations in the FFA Barnyard at the Minnesota State Fair were popular attractions. State officers and Princess Kay watched, too.

Calendar of Events

April 12-26—State Presidents' European Study Seminar
June 4-7—Work Experience Abroad Orientation Conference
October 17-19—National FFA Convention, Kansas City, Missouri

National FFA Conferences

Washington, D. C.—Alexandria, Virginia
June 18-23, June 25-30, July 9-14, July 16-21—Chapter Representatives
July 23-28—State Presidents

Regional State Officer Conferences

June 18-19—Cody, Wyoming
June 26-28—Kansas City, Missouri
June 27-29—Clifty Falls, Indiana
June 20-22—Treasure Valley, Oregon
July 10-14—Mobile, Alabama
July 16-18—Stillwater, Oklahoma
August 1-3—Covington, Georgia
August 6-8—Bristol, Massachusetts

State FFA Conventions

May 1-6—California
May 3-5—New York
May 6—New Hampshire
May 6-9—Minnesota
May 6-11—Puerto Rico
May 17-19—Vermont
May 28-30—Kansas
May 28-30—Mississippi
May 28-June 1—Arkansas
June 3-5—Colorado
June 3-5—New Mexico
June 3-8—South Carolina
June 4-8—North Dakota
June 4-9—Alabama
June 6-8—Kentucky
June 6-8—Louisiana
June 6-8—North Carolina
June 9-14—Washington
June 10-13—Wisconsin
June 10-15—Florida
June 11-15—Illinois
June 17-21—Indiana
June 17-21—Virginia
June 24-25—Connecticut
June 25-26—New Jersey
June 25-27—Maryland
June 26-27—Maine
June 28-29—Pennsylvania

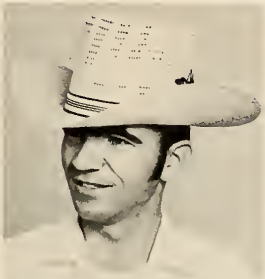
State conventions held later will appear in future issues.

Western shirts available from Dickson-Jenkins Manufacturing, El Paso, Texas, feature back yokes with 1 to 3 points and short or long sleeves in solids, stripes, and patterns.

A Garb Shop

Among Panhandle Slim's double-knit fashions are this Aztec Print suit for women and Trader Plaid sport coat for men. Both come in black and other colors accented on white from Westmoor Manufacturing, Omaha, Nebraska.

The Worker Blunt, Style 234, features tapered construction, oil-tanned leather, and a chemigum sole. The boot is styled by Nocona Boot, Nocona, Texas.



Bailey Hat, Los Angeles, California, has introduced a tall, gold-colored, straw called the Sun-up. It comes in bull rider, open crown, and cutter shapes.

The Golden Spike, made by Justin Boot, Fort Worth, Texas features a lizard vamp, a 12-inch top, and five-row stitching. The boot is Style 9031.

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Smith: *"I'm really worried about my brother. He drives like lightning."*

Tim: *"You mean he drives too fast?"*

Smith: *"No, he strikes trees."*

Larry Block
Waubay, South Dakota

"Here's one bill we won't have to worry about anymore . . . it's marked 'Final Notice.'"

Once two hunters got lost in the forest. The first hunter said, *"Now we must be calm."*

The second hunter agreed, *"You're right. I read that if lost you should shoot three times into the air and someone will come and rescue you."* So they did this, and nothing happened. They did it again, and still no help came. They repeated this several times without results. Finally the first hunter said, *"What are we going to do now?"*

The second hunter replied, *"I don't know. We're almost out of arrows."*

Debbie Peters
York, Nebraska

Mother: *"I don't think the neighbors appreciate Johnny's music."*

Father: *"What happened?"*

Mother: *"They gave him a penknife and asked him if he knew what the inside of his drum looked like."*

Dwayne Boster
Crown City, Ohio

FFA JOKE BOOK

A collection of the escapades and antics of one of FFA's funniest members, "Charlie, the Greenhand." Plus other jokes that have appeared in *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

For your copy, send 50 cents with your name and address to: Joke Book, *The National FUTURE FARMER*, P. O. Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Ed: *"That new man I hired yesterday doesn't know much about farming."*

Fred: *"How's that?"*

Ed: *"He found some milk bottles behind the barn and then came up to me and said he found a cow's nest."*

Robert West
Pierce City, Missouri

Patient: *"Every time I drink a cup of coffee I get a sharp pain in my eye. What should I do?"*

Doctor: *"Take the spoon out."*

Lori Emerson
Tooele, Utah

Burlington: *"Do you know it takes five sheep to make one wool sweater?"*

Kodel: *"Really? I didn't even know they could knit."*

Jim Renz
Jefferson, Wisconsin

Alex: *"What happened to the man who bought snow tires?"*

Alfred: *"They melted."*

Alfred Fryar
Clinton, North Carolina

A 100-year-old man went to blow out the candles on his birthday cake and his dentures melted.

Steve Miller
Charles City, Iowa

Big Brother: *"Know how I keep my head above water?"*

Little Brother: *"Sure, wood floats."*

Douglas Smith
Martin, Georgia

Angry Teenager: *"This car won't go up hills. You said it was a fine machine."*

Dealer: *"I said, 'On the level it's a fine car.'"*

David Cissell
Hickory, Kentucky

Sam: *"Excuse me, I think you're sitting in my seat."*

Bully: *"Can you prove it?"*

Sam: *"If my cream pie is there."*

Kim Meyer
Blaisdell, North Dakota

Teacher: *"Why do I always find you here by the drinking fountain?"*

Student: *"Because you wear soft-soled shoes."*

Brenda Van Meeteren
Luverne, Minnesota

Pain is in the hand of the beeholder.

Frank Coughenour
Lakeland, Florida

Mother Lightning Bug to Father Lightning Bug: *"Isn't Junior bright for his age?"*

Calvin Wilson
Autaugaville, Alabama

Eye doctor: *"Have your eyes ever been checked?"*

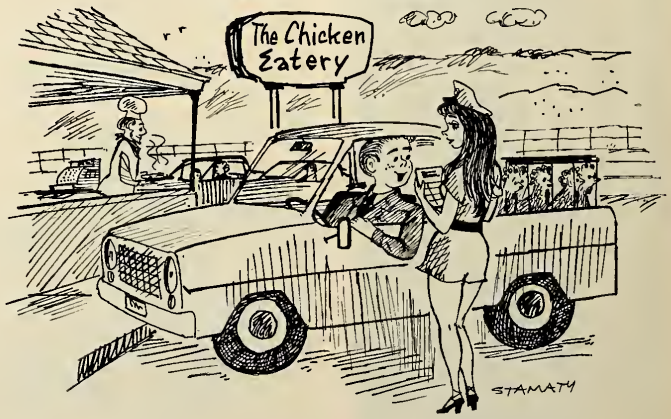
Patient: *"No, always blue."*

David Cross
Clarkrange, Tennessee

Sign in store window: Don't laugh at our coffee. You, too, may be old and weak some day.

Charles Senig
Lancaster, Ohio

Charlie, the Greenhand



One chicken platter, a coke, and a few minutes to speak to you about a career in the poultry industry."

The National FUTURE FARMER will pay $1.00 for each joke selected for publication on this page. Jokes must be submitted on post cards addressed to the National FUTURE FARMER, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. In case of duplication, payment will be made for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

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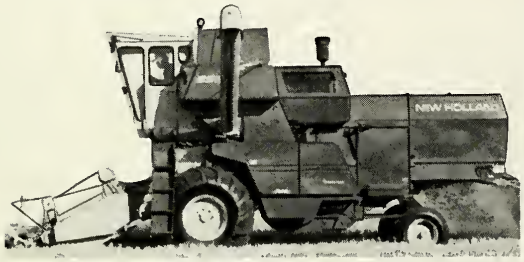
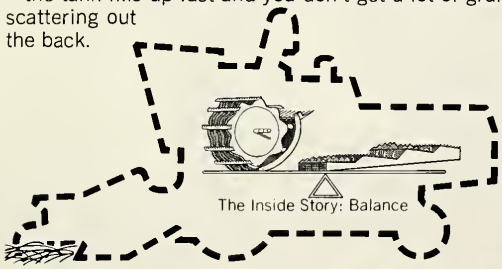
Grainpower facts about New Holland combines.

Grainpower is what a farmer wants most in a combine. Facts are what he wants most about any machine before he buys. Here, Sperry New Holland offers the kind of information that helps a man make a wise choice. (And, of course, we hope he chooses us.)

What you see. The New Holland Model 995 is an impressive giant, that's for sure. But what meets the eye should not necessarily be the deciding factor. The most important components are inside.



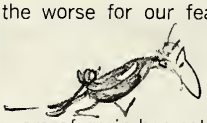
What you don't see. Of course, nobody can observe the internal "balance" quite the way this illustration shows. But it's there, as this representation shows. And you know it just as soon as you see it work —the tank fills up fast and you don't get a lot of grain scattering out the back.



Never leave your seat. Not because you want to be lazy, but because you want to be efficient. We simply want to remind you that the more you stay seated, the more ground you'll cover. And we've thoughtfully arranged all the main controls so that they're right close to the driver. Sperry New Holland was first, by the way, to make standard the complete package of on-the-go controls that you probably take for granted nowadays.

Easy to service. This is probably not the most important thing on a person's mind when buying a new combine. So we want to be sure we direct attention to it — and show how we've provided access doors and panels that put all major service areas within easy reach. A little thing, perhaps, but very important.

Bad news for birds. The better a combine works, the worse for our feathered friends. (They'll simply have to fill up in somebody else's fields!) Sperry New Holland combines perform so well because they're the result of 67 years of grain-harvesting experience. It has placed us in the top four in the world in the sale of big, self-propelled combines.



It has also earned us a reputation as an aggressive, innovative company, one that's never quite satisfied with the way things are. And farmers reap the benefit of this creative restlessness.

So think of this when you think about machinery: Just as important as the equipment you buy is the company behind it.

SPERRY NEW HOLLAND

Sperry New Holland is a Division of Sperry Rand Corporation